WO 2005/015498 PCT/IB2004/051362

15

CLAIMS:

15

20

25

1. A method of object processing for at least one image comprising the steps of: detecting (301) a plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111) associated with at least one object of the at least one image;

grouping (303) the plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111) into at least a

group of object points (105, 107) and a group of junction points (111); and

individually (305) processing the image points of the group of object points

(105, 107) and the group of junction points (111).

- 2. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step (305) of individually processing comprises determining at least one three dimensional characteristic from at least one two dimensional image.
 - 3. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111) are further grouped into a group of falsely detected points (109).
 - 4. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of the plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111) is included in only one group selected from the group of object points (105, 107), the group of junction points (111) and the group of falsely detected points (109).
 - 5. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step (305) of individually processing comprises applying a first process to the group of object points (105, 107) and applying a second process to the group of junction points (111).
 - 6. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 5 wherein the first process is an object process based on object motion within the at least one image.

WO 2005/015498 PCT/IB2004/051362

16

- 7. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 5 wherein the first process is a structure from motion process.
- 8. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 5 wherein the second process is an object process based on a static characteristic within the at least one image.
 - 9. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 5 wherein the second process is a process for determining a depth characteristic of at least one object of the at least one image.

10

- 10. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 9 wherein the depth characteristic is a relative depth characteristic indicating a relative depth between a plurality of objects of the at least one image.
- 15 11. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of detecting (301) the plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111) comprises applying a curvature detection process to at least a part of the at least one image.
- 12. A method of object processing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the junction points (111) comprise T-junction points (111) corresponding to an overlap between two objects of the at least one image.
 - 13. A computer program enabling the carrying out of a method according to claim

1.

25

- 14. A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim 13.
- 15. An apparatus for object processing for at least one image comprising:
 means (201) for detecting a plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111)
- 30 associated with at least one object of the at least one image;

means (203) for grouping the plurality of image points (105, 107, 109, 111) into at least a group of object points (105, 107) and a group of junction points (111); and means (209) for individually processing the image points of the group of object points (105, 107) and the group of junction points (111).